

# Overview of Technology Transfer in the Nordic Region

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### The Nordic Countries



Oulu





## Previous Legal Framework

- Humboldtian university tradition:
  - individual professor combines research and teaching and takes care of (commerical) exploitation of results
  - academic freedom emphasized
- similar Employee Invention Acts in four Nordic countries created in the 1940's thru 1960's
  - German legislation as example
  - university professors exempt from the general rule that patentable inventions of an employee belong to the employer
- state universities





## Employee inventions at Finnish universities

- "Teachers and researchers of universities in this capacity" are exempt from the Employee Invention Act -> they can themselves determine what to do (and whether to do anything) with their potential inventions
- traditionally more emphasis on creating new companies and carrying out contract research than on licensing
- if the University must get the intellectual property rights in a particular project, it must make an agreement with all the academics involved in the project
- situation somewhat unclear in polytechnics



## Changes since the 1960's

- increased dependance on external research funding
- more international and interdisciplinary projects
- involvement of the University in regional economic development
- commercial exploitation of results becomes university responsiblity -> IP issues





## University Technology Transfer Nationally in Finland

- specific funding to universities for developing innovation services since 2000
- universities have been free to formulate their own policies and practices
- long-standing collaboration of innovation services of all universities
- third task for Universities introduced in University Act 2004, this includes commercialization of research results
- Ministry of Education plans to implement national measures for licensing and company creation





## Organization of Technology Transfer in Finnish Universities

- pre-grant and post-grant research services are generally available
- collaboration with the Foundation for Finnish Inventions -> innovation managers
- invention disclosure procedures
- technology transfer takes place
  - mostly through collaborative research projects (Tekes, European Union)
  - through spin-outs (regional incubators)
  - to a variable degree through licensing





### Integrated research administration

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **FEASIBILITY**

#### **STUDY**

- -Financier
- -Partners
- -Prior of Art

#### LEGAL SERVICES RESULT

- -Negotiation process
- -Contract models
- -Univ. policy of IP

#### EVALUATION

- -Protection
- -Market potential

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

- -New start up
- -Existing company

#### **PLANNING**

- -Project plan
- -Pre-TIP

#### CONTRACT RESEARCH WORK

-Lab. notebook

#### **PUBLISHING**

- -Scientific papers
- -Project report
- -TIP2





## Main Sources of Research Funding in Finnish Universities

- Academy of Finland (governmental, basic research)
- National Technology Agency (governmental, applied research)
- RTD framework programme of the European Union
- Companies
- Structural funds of the European Union: some research infrastructure funding for facilities





### Technology Transfer at U Oulu

- Research and Innovation Services responsible for research contracts, exploitation policy, IPR
- invention disclosure procedure in use since 1999
- cooperation with
  - Foundation for Finnish Inventions: exploitation of non-university owned IP
  - OuluTech Ltd: company creation and incubation
  - other cooperating companies and various networks of experts: exploitation of university owned IP
- awareness raising: training programmes, seminars, info on the internet

RESEARCH and

INNOVATION SERVICES

## In the Cold and Dark, High-Tech Heat Business Week

Hot spot for high-tech Dagens Näringsliv Le technopôle nord *Le Monde* 

Northern Light

The Economist

The town that thinks it's IT *Financial Times* 

A little modern miracle called Oulu *The Herald* 

Il chip veloce del Baltico *Io Donna* 

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Sauna, Schnaps und schicke Sites Der Spiegel Online

Microchips and elk *Forbes Global* 

Wirtschaftswunder unterm Nordlicht *Die Welt* 



## Licencing in Numbers: University of Oulu 2005

- Patent portfolio of total 12 patents/patent applications:
  - 1 biotechnology
  - 7 electronics
  - 2 telecommunication
  - 1 physics
  - 1 medical technology
- Technology licensing: 6 licence agreements, 20 technology transfer agreements





## Present Legal Framework

- Denmark 1999
- (Germany 2002)
- Norway 2002
- Finland 2006
- all these guarantee the rights to patentable inventions to the university, some differences in scopes
  - in Denmark, the law also covers research institutes and hospitals





### New University IPR Law in Finland

- Right to University Inventions Act, April 2006
- University administers the rights to inventions made within research projects that are based on external funding
  - inventor(s) entitled to reasonable remuneration
- in other types of research ("open") the inventor may retain the right to the invention
- introduces a general Invention Disclosure procedure
- all personnel of both universities and polytechnics to be treated identically

TKIMUS- JA

INNOVAATIOPALVELUT



### **Evaluation of invention disclosure**

